

Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness



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NEWSLETTER

October - November 2006
Volume 1, Issue No. 5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 10 Region 9 Exercise
Controller/Evaluator
Briefing
- 10 -13 Hazard Mitigation
Application Workshop
- 11 Region 9 Functional
Exercise
- 11 Region 2 Exercise
Controller/Evaluator
Briefing
- 12 Region 2 Functional
Exercise
- 18 New Orleans TICP
Validation Exercise
- 24 Region 7 Exercise
Controller/Evaluator
Briefing
- 25 Region 7 Functional
Exercise
- 29 Hazard Mitigation
Applications Due

NOVEMBER

- 7 Election Day
- 7 Region 4 AAR
- 9 Region 9 AAR
- 10 Veteran's Day
- 14 Region 2 AAR
- 16 Region 7 AAR
- 23 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 12-13 Director's Meeting in
Lafayette (TENTATIVE)



The U.S. Coast Guard exercises their air search and rescue operations.

Operation Lily Pad Search and Rescue Exercise

Over 200 people from multiple state, local and federal agencies joined forces in September to participate in Operation Lily Pad, an exercise designed to simulate search and rescue procedures in a flooded Greater New Orleans area.

The exercise took place on the Southern coast of Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans.

The goal of the exercise was to test the improved coordination and communication procedures as well as the expedited transportation methods developed since Hurricane Katrina. The exercise also tested the improved operation procedures at lily pads and evacuation sites.

In New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, areas of high ground between flooded areas served as lily pads, areas suitable for a drop off point during search and rescue operations.

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At lily pad locations, rescuers can provide flood victims with security, food, water and emergency medical attention while they wait for transportation to a central collection point where the victims can be processed and taken out of the affected area on busses.

Operation Lily Pad Search and Rescue Exercise

During the exercise, commanders notified search and rescue teams of the locations of people and animals in need of rescue. Role players from the participating agencies served as flood victims.

Rescuers used 19 boats and 4 helicopters to pull victims from flooded areas (predetermined locations on Lake Pontchartrain) and take them to lily pads. Trucks then took the victims from the lily pads to a simulated convention center.

The exercise also tested pet evacuation plans. The Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) brought 15 shelter animals and 12 volunteer handlers to practice boat rescues.

A total of more than 150 people participated in the exercise, including representatives from GOHSEP, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana National Guard, Louisiana State Police, Louisiana Urban Search and Rescue, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, SPCA, City of New Orleans, New Orleans Police Department, New Orleans Fire Department, New Orleans Emergency Medical Services, Public Health Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and FEMA Gulf Coast Recovery.



Above: Search and rescue workers practice moving a rescued flood victim from boat to ambulance. Below: A Louisiana National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk Tail prepares to exercise an air rescue.



The Firehawk Defender displays its fire-fighting capabilities on Lake Buhlow near Alexandria, La.

State and Local Representatives view boat demonstration

In September, representatives from GOHSEP, Louisiana National Guard and several local and federal agencies watched a demonstration of a new rescue boat on Lake Buhlow near Alexandria. The boat is equipped for fire, rescue and port security capabilities.

The Firehawk Defender comes with several options, including twin 4-stroke outboard motors and a single V8 inboard/jet drive. The jet serves a dual purpose, not only helping with propulsion, but also acting as a fire pump. The below deck fire pump is directly plumbed through the keel. The pump is always primed and can supply water with the turn of a key.

For more information on the boat, visit www.harborguardboats.com.

GOHSEP hosts hurricane tabletop exercise

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) recently hosted a tabletop hurricane exercise for the Southeast Hurricane Task Force to further refine pre-storm procedures in preparation for hurricane threats in the future.

State, federal and parish representatives came together in the GOHSEP Emergency Operation Center to synchronize their plans against Hurricane Jasper, a category 3 storm following a path similar to Hurricane Katrina.

The exercise included representatives from Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, St. Charles, St. James, St. Helena, St. John, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Orleans, Jefferson, Tangipahoa and Beauregard parishes.

"The exercise gave us a great opportunity to

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Col. (Ret.) Steve Wilson named Assistant Deputy Director of Homeland Security

Col. (Ret.) Jeff Smith is pleased to announce that Col. (Ret.) Steve Wilson has been named as the Assistant Deputy Director of Homeland Security for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Wilson's duties will include oversight of Homeland Security related issues in the state.

Wilson, a Louisiana native, comes to the agency from the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., where he served as chief of information integration, deploying the Homeland Security Information Network to all 50 states and six territories. The network was instrumental in saving lives in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"It's great to be back in Louisiana, and I look forward to working with our state homeland security stakeholders and being a part of this agency," said Wilson.

"I believe Steve will do an excellent job in this position, and I am glad to have him on board," said Col. (Ret.) Jeff Smith, acting director of GOHSEP. "His experience with managing intelligence will be a great benefit to the agency."

Wilson began his twenty-eight year career in the military as an intelligence interrogator in the U.S. Army Reserve. He later transferred to the Louisiana National Guard, serving as battalion operations officer for the 415th Military Intelligence Battalion. In 1994, Wilson moved to Washington, D.C., to serve at the National Guard Bureau as a detailed inspector general for intelligence.

In 2000, Wilson joined the U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, where he served as operations chief. There, he directed the operational training of former Eastern Bloc countries in preparation for their entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Three years later, Wilson was once again assigned to the National Guard Bureau as chief of the intelligence branch for the Army National Guard. Later he became the intelligence director for the newly formed National Guard Bureau Joint Staff where he served until his retirement from the military in December of 2004.

Prior to beginning his military career, Wilson served a combined 14 years in law enforcement with the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, New Orleans Police Department and Louisiana State Police.

Wilson is a graduate of the U.S. Army Intelligence Advanced Course, Combined Arms Staff School and the Command and General Staff College. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Tulane University and completed his Master's of Strategic Intelligence at the American Military University.



Jefferson Parish employees simulate an assisted evacuation as they arrive at the Joe Yenni building, one of the parish pickup points.

Jefferson Parish holds Assisted Evacuation Exercise

In August, Jefferson Parish held its first Assisted Evacuation exercise to test the new evacuation plans and procedures to be used if a major hurricane threatens the parish. The assisted evacuation program is directed to citizens who have no means of personal transportation.

Approximately 70 Jefferson Parish employees and volunteers arrived at the Joe Yenni Building where they served the role of evacuees and were loaded onto two parish transit busses. The busses brought

the evacuees to the Alario Center, one of the parish pickup points. Evacuees were then processed by the Louisiana Department of Social Services and loaded onto state chartered busses. During an actual event, the state busses would transport evacuees to a state-run Critical Transportation Needs (CTN) shelter.

To further test the system, evacuees were given particular roles to play. For instance, some evacuees had communication problems, mobility challenges or other concerns.

“The exercise was successful, but as expected, we will have to address some issues in order to make the process better and more efficient,” said Deano Bonano, director of Jefferson Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

“The state is very happy to see Jefferson Parish taking the initiative to conduct this exercise, and we are ready to assist in any way we can,” said Col. (Ret.) Pat Santos, assistant deputy director of Homeland Security for the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. “We are asking citizens to listen to their local emergency managers and evacuate when told to do so.”

Issues identified in the exercise included training, layout of the facility, more seating while people wait to load the state busses, and signs to show evacuees how the processing center flows.

Jefferson Parish plans to address issues learned in the exercise and hold another exercise in the future.

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work together as a group and plan for future disasters,” said Col. Pat Santos, assistant deputy director of emergency preparedness for GOHSEP. “Exercises like this ensure we will all be on the same page during a real event.”

The objectives for Hurricane Jasper focused on validating plans for the Southeast Hurricane Task Force with state and local collaboration; coordinating local plans and state support; evacuating citizens and pets and/or sheltering in place; communications; resource logistics and distribution; emergency public information and warning; and mass care.

“We came into the exercise with a list of objectives and tasks we wanted to accomplish and we met those objectives. This exercise and the exercises we participated in earlier this year have truly stepped up our level of readiness and allowed us to coordinate parish, state and federal disaster response plans,” Santos concluded.

Division Summaries

REGIONAL SUPPORT SECTION

Section Chief Brant Mitchell

With the passing of Act 35, the 2006 Extraordinary Legislative Session authorized GOHSEP to add nine Regional Coordinators to its staff. In order to accommodate these new positions, GOHSEP has added a sixth section to its organization structure: Regional Support.

The mission of the new section is to provide to parish governments support, guidance, assistance and coordination in regional homeland security and emergency preparedness efforts. Regional Support will ensure all regions in the State are able to achieve a high level of preparedness for homeland security threats or natural disasters, establish a coordinated and robust operational ability, and are able to recover from disasters. Regional Coordinators will ensure parish and regional response plans, strategies and efforts are synchronized with the State of Louisiana and are in compliance with the National Response Plan.

The nine regional coordinators have been selected, and each one brings a tremendous amount of experience to GOHSEP.

Regional Support is pleased to welcome the following individuals to the agency:

Gary Leblanc – Region 1 Coordinator

Gary is currently an employee with the Louisiana State Police and is set to retire in January 2007. He is part of the LSP Hazardous Materials and Explosives Control Unit and currently retains the rank of lieutenant. He is a fully qualified HAZMAT Technician and is EOD certified. He will be joining GOHSEP full-time immediately upon his retirement in January.

Bill Icenogle – Region 2 Coordinator

Bill is retired from the Navy where he had the unique opportunity to serve in the enlisted ranks, warrant officer ranks, and in the Officer Corp from which he retired as a Senior Lieutenant. Bill's specialty while serving in the Navy was in the arena of information warfare. In addition he was part of the training program where he served as a Master Training Specialist/Instructor.

Pam Roussel – Region 3 Coordinator

Pam has over 16 years experience in government and has served in the capacity of Region 3 Coordinator
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DISASTER RECOVERY SECTION

Section Chief Mark DeBosier

As of September 31, FEMA has obligated **\$3.4 billion** for public assistance projects and has written **13,827** project worksheets for Hurricane Katrina.

For Hurricane Rita, FEMA has obligated **\$364.5 million** for public assistance projects and has written **4,010** project worksheets.

The total amount paid to date for Hurricane Katrina is **\$1.44 billion**, and the total amount paid for Hurricane Rita is **\$181.83 Million**. The combined paid total is **\$1.62 Billion**.

Payments are based on invoices reflecting eligible work performance pursuant to a project worksheet.

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while employed by South Central Planning District. She has extensive knowledge regarding all matters involving Homeland Security grants and has been working directly with Region 3 as its volunteer coordinator for the last three years.

Brian Hollier – Region 4 Coordinator

Brian brings over 14 years of EMS experience to GOHSEP. He has served in both the dispatch and operational level. In addition to his extensive medical background, Brian is a captain in the Louisiana Army National Guard where he recently completed an 18 month deployment in Iraq. Since returning from Iraq, Brian has been working with the Louisiana Recovery Authority on housing issues.

Doug Zettlemoyer – Region 5 Coordinator

Doug is a retired master sergeant with the Louisiana National Guard. In this capacity he was assigned to the Adjutant General's headquarter staff. In addition, he has six years management experience with a telecommunications company.

Bill Bollier – Region 6 Coordinator

Bill has a diverse background in EMS, the fire service and emergency preparedness. He has extensive experience in the medical field where he served as the Executive Director for the SMART program. Bill is also a certified instructor and routinely provides instruction for GOHSEP, the Southern Anti-Terrorist Regional Training Academy, LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research & Training and Noble Training Center in Aniston, Al.

Lisa Carmack – Region 7 Coordinator

Lisa has been employed for the last four years as a member of the Caddo-Bossier Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. While serving in this capacity she has worked extensively on the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Public Assistance and Citizen Corps. Over the years, Lisa has also coordinated plans, training and exercises for Caddo-Bossier.

Joe Stewart – Region 8 Coordinator

Joe has an extensive background in law enforcement where his last position was chief of police for the City of Monroe. In addition he has a master's degree in criminal justice. Joe will begin working for GOHSEP on Oct.16, 2006.

Leah Tatum – Region 9 Coordinator

Leah comes to GOHSEP from LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research & Training where she served as a training coordinator. Prior to being selected as the region 9 coordinator, she served as the State's Training Officer at GOSHEP.

Upon completing all NIMS & ICS training up to the IC-400 level, FEMA's Professional Development Series and extensive briefings and training on the agencies programs, the new coordinators will be deployed to their respective regions. As office space is secured and they are firmly established, the parish directors will be provided all their contact information.

GOHSEP is very excited to have this new section and looks forward to developing these positions to assist the parish and Regions across the State.

HAZARD MITIGATION SECTION

Section Chief
Shane Rauh

In recent months, GOHSEP has increased the mitigation staff and grant management training to provide superior service to those submitting HMGP and Expanded Pilot Program grant applications. Our goal is to deliver accurate and up-to-date information and guidance throughout the application process.

In the past year, Louisiana's communities have made great progress toward completing their hazards plans. Just last year, Louisiana had only four FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans. Since then, local partners, GOHSEP and FEMA have worked together and have seen unprecedented progress.

Today, the State has 69 of 78 FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans, and 88 percent of Louisiana's communities are eligible for much needed hazard mitigation grant funds.

GOHSEP congratulates our local partners, staff and FEMA on this outstanding example of teamwork and dedication.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Section Chief Lt. Col. Bill Doran

The Operations Section continues to improve the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Some of the new upgrades include an H-hour clock, 71 new computers—one at each work station, six projection screens, two FAX machines, four new printers and individual task lighting in each cubicle. In addition, Operations added information shortcuts to the EOC computer desktops and placed emergency management data on the EOC server to make resources easier to access.

The overall objective of Operations and Planning is to provide for the immediate management of the emergency response and the very early transition to recovery operations. Working as a team, Operations has successfully built a hardened EOC.

GOHSEP's Debby Smith named EMAC Lead State Representative for Region VI

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid. Through EMAC, a disaster-impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, resolving liability and reimbursement issues up front.

On September 19, the EMAC Executive Task Force identified the Lead State Representatives (LSR) for next year. The committee voted and announced Debby Smith, GOHSEP EMAC Coordinator, Region VI LSR for 2007 – 2008. Debby will represent the Region VI states: Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana.

GOHSEP representatives attend NEMA Annual Conference

In September, Col. (Ret.) Jeff Smith, acting director of GOHSEP, Col. (Ret.) Pat Santos, assistant deputy director of emergency management, Rhonda Meyer, chief administrative officer, Neal Fudge, preparedness section chief, Debbie Smith, EMAC coordinator, and Lt. Col. Bill Doran, operations section chief, attended the 2006 National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Annual Conference in Orange Beach, Alabama.

The conference provided an opportunity for emergency managers to come together and discuss common challenges and solutions, grow professionally and network with peers. During the conference, GOHSEP representatives were able to meet the individuals shaping the future of homeland security and emergency management, strengthen relationships with partner organization, and share views on all-hazards emergency preparedness with the Washington leadership.

Col. (Ret.) Jeff Smith also presented on lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and long-term recovery issues.

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GOHSEP Operations/Planning Division welcomes our newest employee:

Lt. Col. EJ Hitzman – Operations Assistant Section Chief

EJ lives in St Amant and has proudly served 23 years in the United States Air Force Combat Search and Rescue Unit as a HH-60 G Pavehawk pilot.

PREPAREDNESS SECTION

Section Chief Neal Fudge

Geographic Information Systems – Richard DeBlieux

GOHSEP is entering the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) age. Since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, GOHSEP has become aware of the importance of having its own GIS assets. GIS is a computer program that assists users in creating maps to display information. Maps can be displayed in varying levels detail, from simple information like the state, its parishes, or waterways to individual buildings including aerial imagery, detailed roads, railroads, pipelines or elevations.

Information can also be displayed visually on a map using GPS coordinates or by locating a specific spot on background imagery. This process allows for displaying items such as police stations, nursing homes, hurricane locations, etc. GIS is an important decision-making tool for GOHSEP and will become more visible within the organization as the section evolves.

If you have a need for a GIS product, please contact Richard DeBlieux at 225-925-7544.

Critical Infrastructure – Kevin Siegmund

The critical infrastructure section is responsible for assessing, tracking, and ensuring the protection of Louisiana's critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR). The section administers the Buffer Zone Protection Program as well as the Port and Transit Security Grant Programs. These grants are federally funded and are designed to help protect the state's CI/KR as well as the citizens of Louisiana. The section concentrates on reaching out to local communities and private industry to assess vulnerable areas. Once the vulnerability has been assessed, measures are taken to improve and protect the specific asset. In order to be successful, close cooperation is needed between local, state, federal and private entities.

If you need assistance in a CI/KR area, please contact Kevin Siegmund at 225-925-7557.

The following training courses are scheduled for October – December:

IS 700	Oct 3	St. Martin
ICS-100	Oct 11	St. Martin
ICS-100	Oct 11	Terrebonne
ICS-300/400	Oct 17-20	East Baton Rouge
WMD Tact Cmdr	Oct 24-26	Carville
Nat'l Sheriff's Assoc. WMD Course for Law Enforcement	Oct 24	Calcasieu
Nat'l Sheriff's Assoc. WMD Course for Law Enforcement	Oct 26	Morehouse
TEEX MGT-315	Nov 7	Baton Rouge
CI/KR Security Course	Dec 05-07	Baton Rouge
LSU Law Enforcement Anti-Terrorist Course	Dec 11-12	Oberlin

PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS	PROGRAM MGR
Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee POC	Kevin Siegmund
Area Maritime Security Committee POC	Kevin Siegmund
Buffer Zone Protection Program	Rick Kuntz
Capitol Complex Security Working Group	Kevin Siegmund
Citizen Corps	Nick Auck
Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program	Kevin Siegmund
Emergency Management Accreditation Program	Neal Fudge
Emergency Management Performance Grant	Nick Auck
Enhanced Hazmat Grant	Nick Auck
Geographic Information System	Richard Deblieux
Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Grant	Nick Auck
Homeland Defense Equipment Re-use Program	Lauren Stevens
Homeland Security Exercise Program	Skip Breeden
Homeland Security Information Network	Jodi Harvey
Homeland Security Planning Program	TBD (Melvin Smith)
Homeland Security Training Program	Kevin Breaux
HRSA	TBD (Neal Fudge)
Infrastructure Protection Program	Kevin Siegmund
NIMS (National Incident Management System)	Rachel Dyer
Port Security	Kevin Siegmund
Radiological/Nuclear Program	Leah Lang
Regional Transit Security Working Group POC	Kevin Siegmund
Transit Security Program	Margaret Lee
US Coast Guard MOU Working Group POC	Kevin Siegmund
VOAD	Nick Auck/Margaret Lee
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	Leah Lang

The table above outlines each of the programs in the Preparedness Section and its program manager.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

Section Chief Matt Farlow

GOHSEP Audio/Video System Upgrades

This month, Creative Presentations began work on the Audio/Video enhancements for GOHSEP. The work will primarily impact the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Overwatch and the Communications room. Other areas may be affected due to additional equipment or the need to run cables.

The project includes upgraded audio systems, additional projection and LCD screens for the EOC and Overwatch. The project is expected to be completed in October.

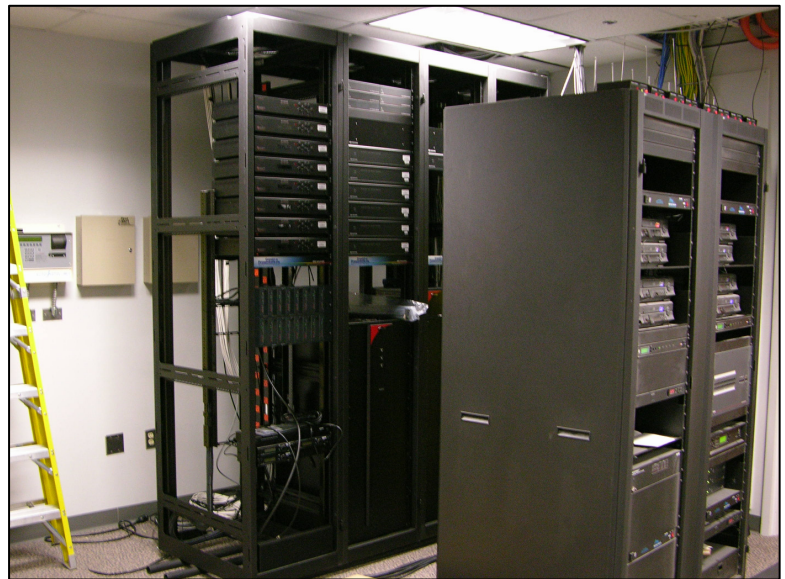
RapidCom's New Home

GOHSEP's three RapidCom units received a new home in September. Since the RapidCom program began, Louisiana State Police has stored the trailers as a courtesy.

The new structure will protect the units from the elements and provide easy access to them when required.



Above: The GOHSEP RapidCom Trailers have a new home. Below: Work begins in the communications room for the GOHSEP A/V enhancements in the EOC.



This newsletter is available on the
GOHSEP Web site at

http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/newsletters/newsletters_main.htm

If you would like to be added to the
newsletter email list, please send a
request to
adavidson@ohsep.louisiana.gov.

Quote for the Month

"The recipe for perpetual ignorance
is: Be satisfied with your opinions
and content with your knowledge."

~ Elbert Hubbard